

El Dorado Hotel  
(Scaglione Hotel)  
1804 Fourteenth Street  
Ybor City (Tampa)  
Hillsborough County  
Florida

HABS No. FL-264

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FLA  
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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EL DORADO HOTEL  
(Scaglione Hotel)

HABS No. FL-264

Location: 1804 Fourteenth Street, Ybor City, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.

Present Use: Demolished 1973 by owner Frank Weaner to make way for a bank building.

Significance: The hotel was built originally as a rooming house to shelter cigar workers who were immigrants from Spain and Cuba. The hotel's first floor cafe became a renowned center for gambling in the 1920s and 1930s. The "El Dorado Lounge" was synonymous with roulette, blackjack and underworld figures. During the 1920s, the upstairs served as a bordello for customers of the casino.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1912.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The land on which the hotel stood is located in Ybor subdivision, Block 34, lot 5, and once belonged to Vincent Martinez Ybor, one of the founders of the cigar industry in Ybor City. In 1895 the property was valued at \$5,000.

The following title records are compiled from Chelsea Title and Guaranty Company, Tampa, Florida.

1885

Deed recorded October 22, 1885, filed October 26, 1885  
Book R, page 176  
John Lesley and wife  
to  
Vincent Martinez Ybor, et al

1887

Deed recorded July 25, 1887, filed June 18, 1887  
Book X, page 64  
Vincent Martinez Ybor, wife, et al  
to  
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company

1891

Deed recorded October 17, 1891, filed November 5, 1891  
Book D, page 235  
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company  
to  
Tampa Real Estate and Land Association

1895

Deed recorded January 15, 1895, filed January 17, 1895  
Book I, page 143  
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company  
to  
Tampa Real Estate and Land Association, receipt and contract

1895

Deed recorded January 15, 1895, filed January 17, 1895  
Book E1, page 154  
Tampa Real Estate and Land Association  
to  
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company

1895

Deed recorded January 15, 1895, filed January 26, 1895  
Book I1, page 200  
Ybor City Land and Improvement Company  
to  
Tampa Real Estate and Land Association

1906

Deed recorded May 1, 1906, filed May 9, 1906  
Book 11, page 19  
Tampa Real Estate and Land Association  
to  
D. O. Fulton

D. O. Fulton died January 1, 1918 willing all his property  
to the following heirs:

- 1/4 to his daughter Ida Tillis
- 1/4 to daughter Myrtie Leymen
- 1/4 to Cora Fulton, daughter-in-law
- 1/8 to Sallie Fulton, widow of his son D.O. Fulton, Jr.  
(later referred to as Sallie Fulton Alderman)
- 1/8 to his Grandson, W. Edward Fulton

Probate #4319

E. William Fulton was declared insane in 1920, and 1/16 of  
his 1/8th land ownership was deeded to his mother Fleddie Fulton  
(daughter of D. O. Fulton).

1920

Deed recorded December 20, 1920, filed May 21, 1921  
Book 331, page 207  
E. William Fulton, unmarried  
to  
Fleedie Fulton

In 1925, Ida Tillis, 1/4 owner of the property, owed debts to T. M. Jones. Failure to pay the amount due resulted in a default of the Tillis share of the land to T. M. Jones, by sale through the Chancelory of Hillsborough County.

1925

Deed recorded May 8, 1925, filed May 8, 1925  
Book 495, page 416  
W. Raleigh Petteway, Special Master Chancelory of Hillsborough County  
to  
T. M. Jones, 1/4 interest

E. William Fulton was declared sane, married, and sold his remaining 1/16th share of land to his mother Fleedie A. Fulton. Fleedie now owned 1/8 title to the land.

1927

Deed recorded March 22, 1927, filed November 22, 1927  
Book 740, page 257  
E. William Fulton and wife, Ester C. H.  
to  
Fleedie Fulton

1930

Deed recorded August 2, 1930, filed August 4, 1930  
Book 129, page 416  
Fleedie A. Fulton Jackson and Husband, R. C.  
to  
E. William Fulton

E. William Fulton was again declared insane and a dispute over who would be appointed his guardian resulted in its eventual sale to Myrtie Leiman. (see deed below)

1931

Deed recorded April 18, 1931, filed April 21, 1931  
Book 926, page 503  
J. M. Jones and wife Mary  
to  
Tampa Investment and Security Company, 1/4 interest

1932

Deed recorded March 28, 1932, filed March 28, 1932  
Book 116, page 264  
Cora Marshall, et al  
to  
Sallie Fulton Alderman, et al

The dispute over the land of E. William Fulton resulted in the sale of the land.

1932

Deed recorded June 30, 1932, filed August 19, 1932  
Book 955, page 289  
Joe W. Dalton, et al, Commissioner  
to  
Myrtie M. Leiman, et al, now owners of 1/2 interest

1942

Deed recorded November 23, 1942, filed December 8, 1942  
Book 1224, page 500  
Myrtie M. Leiman and husband J. W. and Tampa Investment and Securities Company both sold their 1/2 interest  
to  
Demetria Martinez Suarez, widow

1945

Deed recorded January 3, 1945, filed February 14, 1945  
Book 1312, page 45  
Demetria Martinez Suarez  
to  
Madelaine Garvey, single woman

1945

Deed recorded February 6, 1945, filed February 15, 1945  
Book 1312, page 150  
Madelaine Garvey  
to  
Joseph E. Williams and wife, Willie, 1/2 interest

1945

Deed recorded June 27, 1945, filed June 27, 1945  
Book 1330, page 169  
Madelaine Garvey  
to  
Joseph E. Williams and wife, Willie, 1/2 share, making Mr. Williams and wife full owners.

1953

Deed June 11, 1953, filed June 11, 1953

Book 1746, page 65

Joseph Williams and wife Willie

to

Joseph Scaglione and wife Josephine

1973

Deed recorded April 18, 1973, filed April 19, 1973

Book 2661, page 737

Joseph Scaglione and Josephine P. Scaglione

to

Frank A. Weaner

1973

Building demolished.

4. Alterations and additions: The El Dorado's first floor casino had glass brick added to the front in the 1930s. The balcony on the second floor was removed in the 1950s. The rest of the building remained in its original condition at the time it was razed.

B. Historical Context:

From 1887 to 1906 the property passed through several Land Associations and Companies. In 1906 D. O. Fulton became owner of the property. He died in 1918, leaving all his property divided between several heirs. There were foreclosures and sales of partial ownership of the property from 1920 until 1945. It was during this time period that the El Dorado had well established its casino reputation.

In 1945 the building returned to its original purpose, a rooming house. Mechanization of the cigar industry after World War II and the exodus of Latins from Ybor City resulted in a continued deterioration of the building to the present. The building was sold five times from 1945 to 1973. Joseph Scaglione purchased the building in 1953, giving it its last name, the Scaglione Hotel. In 1971 it was purchased by Frank Weaner who razed the building in the summer of 1973, to replace it with a bank building.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

The building was three stories high and measured 95'-6" X 70'-9". The front (west) elevation was fifteen bays and either side elevation (north or south) was ten bays. The wall material was brick. Four storefronts with doorways lined the main elevation. Another storefront with a doorway was on the north elevation. All windows on the west, north and south elevations were one-over-one double-hung sash

with brick segmental lintels, and most were evenly spaced. Shutters were used on the south elevation windows only. There were two small windows on the first floor of either side elevation. The rear (east) wall was completely devoid of openings and of ornamentation. Except for the storefronts, an identical facade design was employed on the west and north elevations. The design consisted of a projecting brick band between the second and third floor windows; a decorative corbeled brick band with pendant drops above the third floor windows; and a corbeled parapet with a finished top. The facade of the south elevation was left plain.

There was an elaborate second floor balcony on the west and north elevations. It was supported by pipe columns and sheltered by a roof, also supported by pipe columns. The design of the railings was highly decorative, and consisted of scrolled ends. It was formed from wrought iron bar stock and bolted to other members.

B. Description of Interior:

At this writing a description of the interior cannot be provided since the building was already demolished.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Interview:

Pizzo, Tony. Local Historian, Tampa, Florida, August 3, 1973.

B. Bibliography:

Tax records, Tax Assessor's Office, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa, Florida.

Title Records, Chelsea Title and Guaranty Company, Tampa, Florida.

Prepared by:

L. Glenn Westfall,  
Historian, Summer 1973  
and  
Susan McCown  
Historian, 1982

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was made possible by the National Park Service, the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the City of Tampa. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1973 at the HABS Field Office, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida, by Professor Donald W. Barnes, Jr. (Architect, North Carolina State University), Field Supervisor; L. Glenn Westfall (Hillsborough Community College), Historian; and four student architects: Steven E. Bauer (University of Kansas); Weldon E. Cunningham (University of Texas); Daniel L. Jacoby (Cornell University); and Amy Weinstein (University of Pennsylvania). The written documentation was edited in 1982 by Susan McCown, a HABS historian in the Washington, D.C. office, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. Walter Smalling, Jr. took the photographs in 1979.



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NOTE ABOUT DRAWINGS:

The drawings of this structure are filed under the title sheet, "Ybor City, Tampa, Florida", which also include the drawings of the Ybor Cigar Factory, HABS No. FL-270, and the Cherokee Club (El Pasaje), HABS No. FL-271.